

A1 RETURN TO RIVIERA COLD OPEN

ANNC: In a normal year this is where the top players would be competing, Riviera Country Club // 2025 of course has been no normal year in the LA area. The fires that started on January 7th, fueled by fierce Santa Ana winds, burned right up to the edge of the property.

HOMA: I'm very, very proud to be from Los Angeles, and I am looking forward to being a part of and continuing to watch the city rebuild and everyone come together.

VO: WELCOME TO PGA TOUR THE CUT

A3 TEE IT UP GENESIS INVITATIONAL

VO: IN THE ANTICIPATED RETURN TO RIVIERA THIS WEEK, LUDVIG ABERG LOOKS TO DEFEND HIS TITLE AFTER WINNING THE EVENT LAST YEAR AT TORREY PINES.. HE MAKES ONLY HIS SECOND CAREER START AT RIVIERA WHERE HE FINISHED T-19 IN 2024..

VO: THE LAST GOLFER TO WIN THIS EVENT AT RIVIERA WAS HIDEKI MATSUYAMA IN 2024, RUNNING AWAY FROM THE FIELD WITH A 62 ON SUNDAY... IT WAS 1 OF 4 CAREER TOP-10 FINISHES AT RIVIERA FOR MATSUYAMA, AND HE'S OFF TO A HOT START THIS YEAR WITH 4 TOP-15 FINISHES IN 4 STARTS

VO: ALSO IN THE FIELD IS 2021 CHAMPION AND LOS ANGELES NATIVE, MAX HOMA - HE RETURNS TO RIVIERA HOPING FOR SOME REJUVINATION AFTER SEARCHING FOR HIS GAME ALL OF LAST YEAR..

A4 HOMA 2025 JOURNEY FEATURE

HOMA: It's always difficult because I felt so broken and I felt like whatever the swing change was going to be was going to be some grand thing, like something I've never done before. I wouldn't advise switching your clubs and your coach at the same time or your golf swing, but I did that.

ANNC: Max Homa has been trying to find it. He has missed his last four cuts and it's frustrating him greatly.

HOMA: I know that I am quite tough when it comes to this stuff. I've gone through this much worse before, where the results weren't coming. I've always been quite proud of my work ethic. I think it's why I'm here. I think it's, my best quality. And that has been ramped up about a thousand notches.

ANNC: And Colt, Max said this week that a big point of emphasis for him was to have fun. He said he has a cool job, he's been working hard and needs to enjoy it more, and he might not come away with a win. It certainly seems like he's accomplished that main goal and the results have been pretty strong this week. Well, he could hope this one sure could. That's a pitching wedge coming back. He a go.

HOMA: Golf has just been very boring for me this year. I haven't had a whole lot of, stress. And you want to be stressed out, so I look forward to, the butterflies in the morning. I look forward to the first tee shot. So it's just nice to get to feel that again. It's been a while.

ANNC: Max Homa needs a minimum two way tie for second to have a chance to move into the FedExCup playoffs.

HOMA: Probably planning on playing Mississippi, Japan and Utah. Hopefully would have locked up. Top Hunter by then as for now, that's kind of my plan.

HOMA: I have a pretty good sized bone spur on the top of my ankle. I've had it for a little while. I had planned on getting it taken out when we have a little bit of time off, so it was just kind of ironic. It almost never gets inflamed. But I think this place is pretty hard to walk. And I walking down just a small hill on 12, but most of like it didn't. I didn't feel anything. But as we were walking down the fairway on 12, I could feel it getting swollen. And then when we were done on 12, it was very, very, tender. I kept thinking about my wife had a horrendous birth with our first son, and she had major, major surgery, and there's just no way I could complain about a hurt ankle while I walked. So that one. Really? She gets me through a lot. She couldn't look at me the same.

ANNC: How about a closing eagle at the eighteenth for Max Homa. Okay. So, belief starting to sprout. Oh what a finish. Well, done Max Homa. Just a horror show of a year but finishing strong.

HOMA: I've had it quite a bit of time this season. Most Saturdays and Sundays I reflect on how bad it's been. So, hopefully turn around soon and, not need to reflect so much and just, keep moving forward.

HOMA VO: FOR MORE ON HOMA'S EXCITEMENT HEADING INTO THE WEEK, HE JOINED MATT EVERY TO DISCUSS ALL THINGS RIVIERA

[A5 MAX HOMA ON THE DROP](#)

Every: You're a past champ heading into the Genesis Invitational. 2021 champ. You're also born in Los Angeles County. You're about as LA as it gets for the tour with the wildfires. Moving this to Tori Pines last year and returning back to Riviera. What are your emotions like heading into this week?

HOMA: Yeah, I'm stoked. I needed a sponsor's exemptions, you know I told the guys that's my Masters and I know a lot of people are asking for sponsor exemptions to a lot of the events but like that is the one that means something deep down and I miss it would kill me, especially you know after a year off from there last year. I was there this summer and kind of drove through at its pretty wild. Fires always affect down in SoCal, but I don't know sometimes you feel like there is sacred land and that felt like sacred land, but Genesis did a great job last year. Collin and I were a part of giving a family money and a car and to get to see their faces and how obviously happy they were but how much they needed it. It touched you. So, I really wanted to be back in LA for the first event since. Hopefully everyone kind of appreciates the importance of the event in that area and also can kind of see what that area means to all of us from there. As much as it was devastating it was cool to see everyone kind of rally together. Sometimes when that crazy stuff happens it brings a lot of people together.

EVERY: Bringing Mark Blackburn back on board, getting the band back together. You've made 2 or 3 cuts so far this season. A couple of things. What are you guys working on and how do you feel about your progress so far?

HOMA: yeah, obviously having Mark back has been incredible. Just the way we communicate there is something special about it. I really appreciate my time with John Scott but like Mark came with me to Utah last October and we didn't even really talk golf swing we just talked strategy and hung out, and I got 9th. There is just something about the way we communicate, we're like connected somehow. I'm really not thinking that much about my golf swing but clearly I'm tying too much the result of a shot to a golf swing and not putting enough stock in your emotion and just where your mental game is at so I am hopeful going to a place I love next week for LA and a place that I can just play with my eyes closed that hopefully that will help me get out of this because I know I'm doing this and I would like to stop.

EVERY: Maz that was awesome stuff dude kick some butt this week. We're pulling for you.

Homa: Thank you Matt, see you bro.

BI PEBBLE BEACH PRO-AM RECAP

ANNC: Every single time you have a tournament contested here, it's all woven together with the great names who have won here. // It is windswept, but wonderful as always at Pebble Beach.

ANNC: Oh, my goodness, what a shot! Scottie Scheffler, inside of three feet for his third eagle of the day. He has never made three eagles in his distinguished, but still young PGA TOUR career.

ANNC: Wow. That's all you can say. A Sunday to remember for Scheffler. // And now he'll wait.

ANNC: We got a lot of guys with a chance to win this golf tournament.

ANNC: Two-back from Morikawa// hooking hooking// check that he's only 1 back!

ANNC: 235 in, you make birdie you win, Collin Morikawa tied for the lead.

ANNC: Two putts for victory, oh is this beautifully played!

ANNC: Collin Morikawa is the winner at Pebble Beach!

BALIONIS/MORIKAWA: Collin and emotional embrace there with your wife Kat. After 2 and half years you are once again a champion, why was that moment so special for you?//Put golf aside we're actually expecting later this year in a few months//there is so much to life, there is so much to enjoy// I'm just so thankful for the people around me// I'm speechless right now.

B2 FEDEXCUP STANDINGS

VO: THANKS TO HIS 7TH CAREER WIN, COLLIN MORIKAWA EARNS 700 FEDEXCUP POINTS AND JUMPS UP TO NUMBER THREE WHILE A SHARE A SECOND PLACE HELPS MIN WOO LEE AND SEPP STRAKA SNEAK INTO THE TOP 10 FOR THE FIRST TIME THIS SEASON...

B3 Collin Morikawa Winner's Walk

Min Woo: You're paying for the flight brother!

Henley: Congrats Bro, I'm so happy for you.

Morikawa: I want to scream but I don't think that is appropriate. I won't I won't. I'm going to scream on the inside right now.

Morikawa: I haven't done that in awhile.

Morikawa: I feel like I need to go into the pebble pro shop now, I need to start looking like Tommy Fleetwood. I like never buy stuff but if youre going to win here you might as well buy it.

Morikawa: How are you doing? Thank you so much.

NATS: What can we help you find?

Morikawa: Honestly just some hats, whatever she wants. Probably some baby stuff. It's weird to do this but you have to do this here.

Morikawa: Alright I'm going to do one of these ropes.

Nats: We're glad youre repping the logo.

Morikawa: Thank you. I mean shoot after Tommy..... I only use Augusta pencils, like only. So I slowly grab, because you know it is a very special place. Now I'm going to only use Pebble Pencils.

Nats: Here you go Collin.

Morikawa: Oh S*@!, Ok Ok, Well I don't need that many. I say I don't need that many, but I'm still going to take them. Thank you, guys, thank you.

Morikawa: Right next to M.O. hold on let me take a little photo. How special is that. I might just call him.

O'Meara: What's up brother!

Morikawa: Hey don't crash but look where my name is going to go. Right next to yours, how nice is that.

O'Meara: Ya man, right across. Very impressive bud I'm super jacked for you. Well, done.

Morikawa: We'll go celebrate; we'll see you guys soon. Honestly, I didn't even see the wall all week. Thank God I didn't. That would have been so bad.

C3 ABERG 2025 GENESIS RECAP

VO: AFTER BURSTING ONTO THE SCENE IN 2023, LUDVIG ABERG BECAME ONE OF THE GAME'S BEST YOUNG STARS. WHILE HE WON'T BE DEFENDING ON THE SAME COURSE THIS YEAR, WE TAKE A LOOK BACK AT THE BIGGEST WIN OF HIS YOUNG CAREER...

ANNC: It's a future superstar right there, Jim. He's right before our eyes.

VO: IT ONLY TOOK ABERG 11 STARTS TO CAPTURE HIS FIRST WIN ON TOUR, NOW HE UNDERSTANDS WHAT IT TAKES TO STAY AT THE TOP OF HIS GAME AND HOW DEMANDING A SEASON ON TOUR CAN BE..

LUDVIG ABERG: When I came out on TOUR, I probably didn't really realize what was really important for me in terms of my training, practice, swing, you know, all those things. I've realized why those things are important for me.

VO: LAST YEAR, ABERG'S SECOND FULL SEASON ON TOUR WAS JUMP STARTED BY A BACK NINE CHARGE ON SUNDAY AT THE RELOCATED GENESIS INVITATIONAL...

ANNC: Which of the world's best will rise up and become champion?

ANNC: One of the players making a move is Aberg

ANNC: A bit of redemption for him here // had the 36 hole lead here at the Farmers, got ill

ABERG: I felt like I had a good chance of winning that tournament but wasn't really feeling like myself // basically a little bit of survival mode

LUDVIG ABERG HOPED TO REWRITE THE SCRIPT AFTER ILLNESS KNOCKED HIM OUT OF WINNING AT THE SAME GOLF COURSE EARLIER IN THE SEASON

ANNC: two in a row for Aberg // he'll drop back to six, that is two behind // many at the start of the day thought that he was the one

AFTER TWO BIRDIES IN HIS FIRST THREE HOLES, HIS HOT START STALLED AND OPENED THE DOOR FOR OTHERS TO MAKE MOVES

ABERG: they were not great bogeys but I still felt like I was sort of in control of what I was doing.

VO: NAMELY, MAVERICK MCNEALY

MCNEALY: it was really fun when the ball is coming off exactly like you want when you're standing over a putt and it's just going to go in.

ANNC: It's lookin good, come on now! 8 birdies in 11 holes

ANNC: but don't discount the Swede here

ABERG: I definitely saw what he was doing, I looked at all the leaderboards that I could. I think he got to 12 pretty early and I was sort of stuck at 7, 8, //all I tried to do once I saw that he posted 11 was just to get to 12 really

ANNC: Aberg is breathing down his back, one behind

NAT: at 11 those closing few holes, did you feel like that was enough?

McNealy: I thought I probably needed one more. // I was just trying // to give myself a chance

ANNC: Round of 64 // we'll see what 11 under will do

ANNC: maverick probably doesn't know it, but there is 6ft 9 inches separating Ludvig from a tie for first to victory //

ANNC: oh yes! Ludvig Aberg takes Tiger's tournament

ABERG: it's a cool feeling to try to win a golf tournament coming down the last couple holes. Today I executed the shots, I made a couple putts and that was the difference.

TIGER: Nice playing dude! LUDVIG: I appreciate, that was awesome, that was fun

ABERG: To win his event, he means so much to our game and to our tour, it's really cool.

TIGER, ABRERG: Is this one of your favorite tour stops? It is. Won 7 Buicks here, and US Open. Won Junior Worlds.

ABERG: This is the best feeling in golf and to be able to do what I did today is definitely going to help me going forward

NATS: We'll see you next year at the Riviera Country Club

D1 CHRIS GOTTERUP – Just A Drill

GOTTERUP: Hey, guys, it's Chris. Gotterup, and this is just a drill. I'm going to take you through a couple of things that I do to keep my swing in check. This is just the normal, like, you know, therapy band. But we use it as, you know, swing device. So, like, how I use it is I'll put it on here and I'll wrap it around, just above my left elbow like this. My arm doesn't go out this way. It's pretty hard to get it to go out this way. This thing tends to keep me just kind of. I wanted to go this way and keep my left arm flat, close to my chest. I tend to kind of get out of this way.

And it gets. That's when I get steep and drop down on it. And, when I'm taking it back with this band, right here kind of just pulls me this way. That is kind of all this comes down to.

GOTTERUP: It's something that I like to use because it is not, like, interfering with my swing like crazy, or it doesn't bother my feels or anything. It's kind of just something that, is on me, and it just kind of guides me a little bit. It's not interfering with much that I'm doing. It's a simple Drill.

GOTTERUP: Another simple one. Towel, this is something just contact wise. it helps promote, driving into the ball and getting clean contact because if I hit the towel, I'm probably coming from the inside or shallower than I'd like. That's going to produce ball going right for me. And I don't want that. I want starting life. So, this kind of in a very generic way promotes me kind of hitting down and through it and starting the ball left.

VO: NOW, FOR A UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE ON THE 4-TIME TOUR WINNER, CHRIS GOTTERUP'S MOTHER, KATE, SAT DOWN WITH ALI MCCANN.

D2 KATE GOTTERUP ON THE DROP

ALI: We now welcome in Kate got her up, mom to the one and only. Chris got her up. Kate. Of course we do want to get to know a little bit more about Chris off the course. But also when you look at him in this moment as his mom, what has it been like to watch this version of your son?

KATE: I mean, it's just been, somewhat of a steady journey, like a bunch of ups, a bunch of downs. And, when I look back over just the past couple of years, it seems to have gone very quickly. But there's been a lot of bumps along the way. So it it's, you know, it's definitely been a journey.

ALI: Let's go back to his days as a young kid. Can you maybe paint a picture of young Chris for us?

KATE: Yeah, he's always been a pretty laid-back guy. Always busy, always playing different sports and hanging out with his boys. Like, definitely has a crew of guys that he's collected along the way. And they're still they're still good friends.

ALI: Okay, so hearing that, could you maybe tell us what characteristics did you see in him back in the day that you believe maybe helped shape him into the golfer that he is today?

KATE: Yeah, that's a good question. He's you know, he's very laid back, but there's a fierceness in there that shows up on occasion. And I see it more now when he's, you know, got his back up against the wall and things and that, that he's developed over time. So, when he was younger, he didn't really care about practicing golf that much because he was doing lots of other things. So, until he was in high school and once it became like a team sport, then, you know, that fit his personality really well because he loves to be with the guys and work for the team.

ALI: Well, if I told you back in the day that when he first fell in love with golf, that he'd be a top ten player in the world one day, what would your reaction have been?

KATE: I mean, I would, it would be astonishment. However, my husband did say way back when along the way, Chris is different. If he just practiced more like he has something different, but he has to want it.

ALI: So clearly, he's figured that out, right? Yeah, he definitely has. So you guys pretty much always believed in him, which most parents do.

KATE: Of course. Yes, yes.

ALI: Well thank you for joining us Kate. It's been great to talk to you and get to know a little bit more about Chris growing up. And congratulations to you on all of his success.

KATE: Thanks so much. Take care.

VO: AS GOTTERUP MAKES HIS FIRST CAREER START AT RIVIERA, HE WILL FACE ONE OF THE TOUGHEST FINISHING HOLES ON TOUR – THE DEMANDING PAR-4 18TH...

D4 CHAMPIONS HOLE RIVIERA

EACH WEEK ON THE PGA TOUR, GOLFERS ARE LOOKING FOR A SIGNATURE VICTORY ---- AND ONE HOLE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE... THE TOUR IS AT THE GENESIS INVITATIONAL THIS WEEK, AND USING HISTORICAL DATA AND COURSE INSIGHTS, WE'VE IDENTIFIED THE CHAMPION'S HOLE...

ALL PGA TOUR GOLFERS FINISH THEIR TOURNAMENTS ON THE 18TH HOLE, BUT AT THE RIVIERA COUNTRY CLUB, THAT'S WHERE WINNERS ARE DEFINED...

SINCE THE CREATION OF SHOTLINK IN 2003, WINNERS AT THIS EVENT HAVE DOMINATED THE FIELD ON THE CLOSING HOLE, AND IT STARTS WITH THE APPROACH SHOT...

EVENTUAL WINNERS HIT THE GREEN IN REGULATION 59 PERCENT OF THE TIME, WHILE THE REST OF THE FIELD IS JUST UNDER 40 PERCENT... THAT DIFFERENCE OF NEARLY 20 PERCENT IS THE LARGEST DISPARITY OF ANY HOLE ON THE COURSE...

ANNC: 1 in 3 players have hit this green in regulation this week, that is how tough it has been.. At the right center of the green, ok good shot. He's got to be happy with that.

ANNC: His caddie Jimmy Johnson knows it was a big moment and knows his man came through.

BUT THIS IS A TOUGH GREEN TO HIT NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, SO THE ABILITY TO RECOVER FROM A MISSED GREEN IS CRUCIAL... THE GAP BETWEEN TROPHY-WINNER AND AN ALSO-RAN IS EVEN WIDER WHEN IT COMES TO SCRAMBLING ON 18...

EVENTUAL WINNERS SUCCESSFULLY SCRAMBLE ON THE 18TH HOLE BETTER THAN 85 PERCENT OF THE TIME... THE REST OF THE FIELD IS BARELY AT 60 PERCENT – THAT DIFFERENCE OF MORE THAN 25 PERCENT IS ALSO THE LARGEST DISPARITY OF ANY HOLE ON THE COURSE...

ANNC: It's going to run out just fine! The chunk and run.

THEY SAY NUMBERS NEVER LIE... AND IF YOU THINK THE TRUTH BEHIND ALL OF THESE NUMBERS IS THAT THE 18TH HOLE PLAYS EASIER FOR THE EVENTUAL WINNER – YOU'RE CORRECT...

OVERALL, THE WINNERS AT RIVIERA SINCE 2003 HAVE A SCORING AVERAGE OF 3.79 ON THIS PAR-4 CLOSING HOLE... THEY'RE NEARLY 3 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BIRDIE THE HOLE THAN THE REST OF THE FIELD, THE LARGEST DIFFERENCE OF ANY HOLE ON THE COURSE...

AND THAT'S WHAT MAKES IT THE CHAMPION'S HOLE...